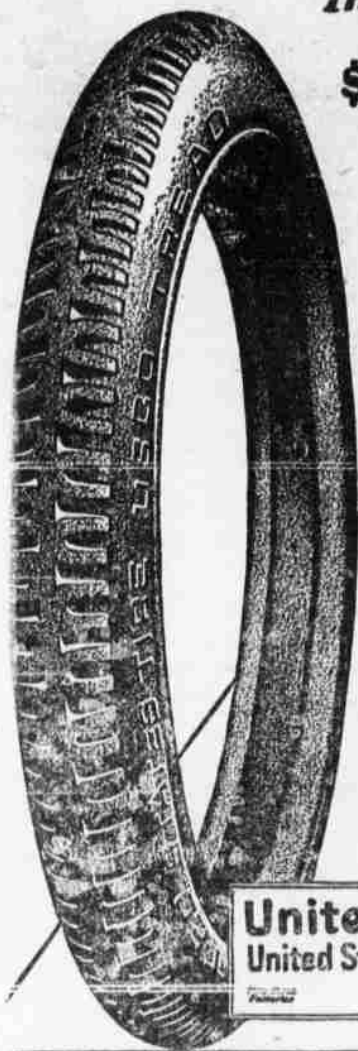


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### THIRD IN WATERMELON YIELD, 1922

A. T. Edmonston, City, Mo., July 8.—Announcer, that of being third in quantity and value of watermelons shipped to the centers of the United States has been thrust upon Missouri by the United States Department of Agriculture in an article published in the July 1, 1922, issue of the weekly "Weather, Crops and Markets" magazine. The article announced the State of Missouri as the "1922 watermelon producing state," and when that fact was given publicity the laudatory comment which followed was nationwide. Now comes this new honor.

Missouri's Strawberry Belt. Missouri is credited with shipping in June, last, from its commercial strawberry belt, chiefly that portion of the state surrounding Springfield and Joplin and from these cities south to the Arkansas line, 1,856 cars of the luscious fruit. The 1921 shipments, the same portion of Missouri only totaled 455 cars, but the crop that year, owing to a very unfavorable spring, was short. That year Missouri ranged eighth in strawberries shipped. The increase in shipments, 1922 over 1921, was fully 300 per cent.

The only states which exceeded Missouri in strawberry shipments during the season of 1922, are Tennessee, 3,172 cars, and Arkansas, 2,069 cars. States such as Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, the two Carolinas, Georgia, which for years ranked high as strawberry producing states, chiefly for the reason that they are more favorably situated, this year take a back seat. The 1922 strawberry shipments of Missouri exceeded by 33 cars those of Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Illinois and New Jersey, which, combined, only totaled 1,832 cars.

Missouri May Rank Second. The Missouri 1922 shipment figures, like those of the other leading strawberry producing states, close with June 15. It is estimated that after that day 300 more cars were shipped, a fact which may give the "Show-Me" state second place instead of third, when Uncle Sam officially promulgates his final findings. The strawberry shipping season of Arkansas closes ten to twelve days ahead of that of Missouri. If the shipments up to June 15 of Arkansas are final and Missouri shipments after that day exceeded 213 cars, the present difference, second honors, will be transferred to the "Poultry Queen of the Union."

In 1921 Missouri was surpassed in strawberry shipments by Louisiana, North Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. For 1922 Missouri forged ahead of Louisiana, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Half of the Crop Stays at Home. The United States Department of Agriculture in its first returns on the strawberry shipments of 1922 only considered fourteen states as the chief producers. The shipments of all other thirty-four states up to June 15 totaled 1,047 cars. Such being the case, the Missouri 1922 shipments—1,856 cars—top this aggregate total by 809 cars. The vast quantity of strawberries produced by Missouri's 114 counties which were not shipped out, but, instead, hauled by the growers in wagons, automobiles and other conveyances to the nearest local consuming market, fully equalling the annual shipments of 1921 and 1922, are not included in the shipment figures. Neither is the vast quantity of berries farmers' wives turned into jellies, preserves, strawberry short cake and other tempting dainties for home use and to be sent to close relatives.

Strawberry Producing Counties. The latest year that complete official strawberry yield figures are available for all of Missouri's counties is 1919. The state crop that year was 12,861,820 quarts, the yield of 8,645 acres. Barry county that year produced 2,522,885 quarts; McDonald county, 1,250,251 quarts; Christian county, 822,595 quarts; Lawrence county, 1,594,792 quarts; Buchanan county, 102,420 quarts, (surplus sold in St. Joseph); Greene county, 362,113 quarts; Newton county, 1,338,777; Jefferson county, 365,888 quarts; St. Louis county, 1,398,366 quarts (sur-

plus hauled into and sold in St. Louis city); Jackson county, 83,178 quarts (surplus hauled into and sold in Kansas City); Jasper county, 715,923 quarts, and Stone county, 140,029 quarts. The yield of all other counties not enumerated that year ran from 5,000 to 95,000 quarts.

For the purpose of comparison, it is estimated that the 1922 crop of strawberries exceeded that of 1919 fully two fold, for the state as a whole, with some counties producing five and six times the quantity. Jasper, Newton, Barry, Lawrence, McDonald, Christian and other Ozark counties and St. Louis and Jefferson counties in 1922 easily excelled all strawberry record yields of past years.

The 1909 Missouri yield of strawberries, data for which was officially gathered during the census of 1910, was 15,171,034 quarts. Barry county's yield was 1,176,990, or half of the 1919 product; Jasper county, 1,379,715 quarts; McDonald county, 876,238 quarts and St. Louis county, 2,612,908 quarts.

### MINE LA MOTTE IS TO BE THOROUGHLY DRILLED

Two diamond drills arrived at Mine La Motte this morning from Flat River to begin a thorough drilling of the property. It is said that several other drills will arrive within the next few days.

The drilling is being done by the St. Joseph Lead Co., it is said, and their purpose is to make a rigid investigation of the mineral value of the property.

For several months Mine La Motte has been yielding quite a quantity of lead. Prospectors have been digging it out under the energetic management of Mr. Yardley, and the production reached several carloads of concentrates. It is also the untiring energy and unlimited faith of Mr. Yardley that has brought about the present drilling of the property.

It will be remembered that the property was sold under a foreclosure action at the court house here January 25th, 1921. It was bid in for \$75,000 by Philadelphia men who held bonds to the extent of more than a million dollars, and Mr. Yardley was continued in charge.

Efforts were at once started toward a reorganization and largely through Mr. Yardley's efforts the Sweetwater Mining Company was organized and incorporated under the laws of Delaware the 3rd of May of the present year. The incorporators are understood to be the bondholders, largely, Theodore Grayson, agent for the bondholders, then deeded the property to the Sweetwater Mining Co., of which Clark W. Coleman and James H. Hornaday of Philadelphia are named as vice president and secretary respectively.

The bondholders accept as payment from the Sweetwater Company \$500,000 in first cumulative mortgage bonds, \$675,000 in first preferred stock, \$230,000 in second preferred stock and 10,000 shares of the company's stock.

Then on June 26th the St. Louis Smelting and Refining Co. filed for record here a renewal of its lease on the Mine La Motte property. The first lease was made in 1913 and renewed in 1914 for a period of ten years. It was under this lease that the National operated the property several years. Under its provisions the lease is renewed until development of property, upkeep of equipment, etc.

It is supposed that it is on this lease that the St. Joseph Lead Co. is prospecting, having secured its hold through the St. Louis Smelting and Refining Co.

It is encouraging that a strong organization like the St. Joseph Co. is interested in Mine La Motte. Most people have faith in Mine La Motte and the prospecting campaign will doubtless prove that faith.—Fredericktown Democrat News.

### ANNUAL SOUTHEAST MISSOURI ASSOCIATION PICNIC

Elaborate plans are being made for this year's Southeast Missouri Association Picnic, Saturday, August 5, at Picnic Ground No. 7, in Forest Park.

Charles M. Hay, president of the Association, has appointed the necessary committees with an eye to the peculiar fitness of the members of the committees for their respective jobs. I. R. Kelso and W. W. Nall, famous through all Missouri, for their taste for watermelon, compose a special committee to provide a watermelon feast that would make the blackest darkey green with envy. Judge Jan. F. Green, celebrated banjo and old-time fiddling expert, heads the music committee. Chester J. Prince and Dr. Walter Harrah, both eminently successful in their own respective spheres have charge of the finances.

The picnic will begin at 2:30 p. m., reach its climax with a basket dinner at 6 p. m., and end at 10 p. m., with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

All residents of St. Louis and vicinity who have ever lived in any of the Southeast Missouri counties, or who have married or courted in Southeast Missouri, or who have ever owned a cat or dog that came from Southeast Missouri, will be welcomed to this frolic and reunion. The former picnics have been the occasion of many happy meetings of old friends. It is hoped that the picnic this year will be the largest and jolliest ever. Help us make it so.

Remember the time and place. LELA O'NEAL, Secretary, 342 Custom House, St. Louis, Mo.

### TAYLOR MAKES VALUABLE FIND

"After spending \$900 for medicine and doctors in four years without getting any benefit for stomach trouble and bloating, I was induced by my druggist to try Mayr's Wonderful Remedy and must say that a \$1 bottle has done me \$500 worth of good." It is a simple, harmless preparation that removes the catarrhal mucus from the intestinal tract and allays the inflammation which causes practically all stomach, liver and intestinal ailments, including appendicitis. One dose will convince or money refunded. At E. M. Laakman's, and druggists everywhere.

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At druggists and barbers, or send 25c for generous sample.  
LUCKY TIGER CO., Kansas City, Mo.

### NO MORE HOMESTEAD LAND IN STATE, AND LAND OFFICE IS CLOSED

At last all of Missouri's land is gone. The land office at Springfield, only survivor of fifteen such offices, is to be closed and the records sent to Washington to be filed in the vaults of the Department of the Interior. There is no more land left for either the homesteader or the speculator. The announcement cannot fail to cause a feeling of regret, although for several years only about 1,000 acres of poor hilly land has been available.

In the year 1906 the various land offices were consolidated and their records moved to Springfield, practically all the land in Northern Missouri having been taken up. Under a ruling of Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock all the government land in Missouri was then opened to cash entry at \$1.25 per acre, in any amount, the limit up to that time having been 320 acres. This was the speculator's opportunity, and thousands of acres were quickly gobbled up by individuals and corporations, a large part of which, in Southern Missouri, still lies unimproved, awaiting the building of railroads.

A "Voice Museum" has been opened in Berlin. It records the voices of distinguished persons on phonograph records that have been surfaced with a special chemical substance which will preserve them for 10,000 years. The museum is to be international, and distinguished men who visit Berlin will be asked for "samples" of their voices, in addition to having their photographs taken.

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